



NEW DECOMMISSIONING ANALYSIS RELEASED FOR OIL PLATFORM INFRASTRUCTURE OFF CALIFORNIA'S COAST

Eight platforms off Santa Barbara's coast are slated for decommissioning over the next ten years. Well plugging has already begun at five of the platforms in federal waters, which extend beyond three miles from the coastline. The public has an opportunity to weigh in on the next phase of the decommissioning process and the fate of the platform structures, pipelines, and cabling.

There are several different elements of the platform decommissioning process. Generally, it involves ceasing oil and gas operations, plugging wells, and either totally or partially removing structures. In an effort to inform the next stages of the decommissioning process for platforms in federal waters, the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), recently released a [draft programmatic environmental impact statement](#) (PEIS).

The draft PEIS includes analyses for four decommissioning options including full removal of the platform and associated infrastructure, alternatives for partial removal of the platforms and associated infrastructure, a "no action" alternative, as well as an evaluation of different decommissioning tools and removal techniques.

Channelkeeper is currently reviewing the PEIS and will submit comments on the

decommissioning alternatives and proposed actions. The public is also encouraged to review the PEIS and provide comments.

Due to the complexity of the issue and the extent of information in the PEIS, Channelkeeper joined others, including Environmental Defense Center and Representative Salud Carbajal, to request an extension of the public comment period.

If you would like to submit comments, you can do so prior to November 28, 2022, or keep checking [here](#) to see if additional time has been provided. These community perspectives will be used to inform future decisions on decommissioning activities.

BSEE and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will hold [two virtual public meetings](#) on the draft PEIS on **Thursday, November 10, 2022**, from 3 pm to 5 pm and on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**, from 11 am to 1 pm. These virtual meetings will provide an overview of the PEIS as well as opportunities to ask questions and offer verbal public comments.



Provide Public Comments on December 1st

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY: VOICE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA'S CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM

Channelkeeper invites you to join us in asking the City of Santa Barbara to reassess and reduce the number of cruise ship arrivals to meet community environmental priorities on December 1st at the Cruise Ship Subcommittee meeting of the City of Santa Barbara's Harbor Commission.

Tim Mitro, an air quality engineer with the Air Pollution Control District of Santa Barbara County, will present information related to air quality and

answer related questions.

The meeting will take place from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in the waterfront classroom located at 125 Harbor Way. This is a critical opportunity to share your opinions on the cruise ship program and help shape its future.

More information is coming soon. Channelkeeper is working to support and help coordinate with community members who are interested in this issue. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to weigh in, email cruiseship@sbck.org with your name and contact info.



THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES SYSTEM CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

In the past fifty years, the National Marine Sanctuary System has grown into a nationwide network of fifteen marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments that conserve more than 620,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters. This network allows us to better understand and protect our nation's most spectacular habitats, marine life, archaeological wonders, and cultural seascapes.

We're incredibly fortunate to have one of these national marine sanctuaries in

our backyard. In 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was the third sanctuary to be designated in the United States. It protects 1,470 square miles of ocean waters around the Northern Channel Islands: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara islands.

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would preserve marine and cultural resources along 156 miles of California's Central Coast.

Please join us in celebrating the history, accomplishments, and beauty of these incredible underwater parks across the United States!

Learn more about this important milestone at www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/50.



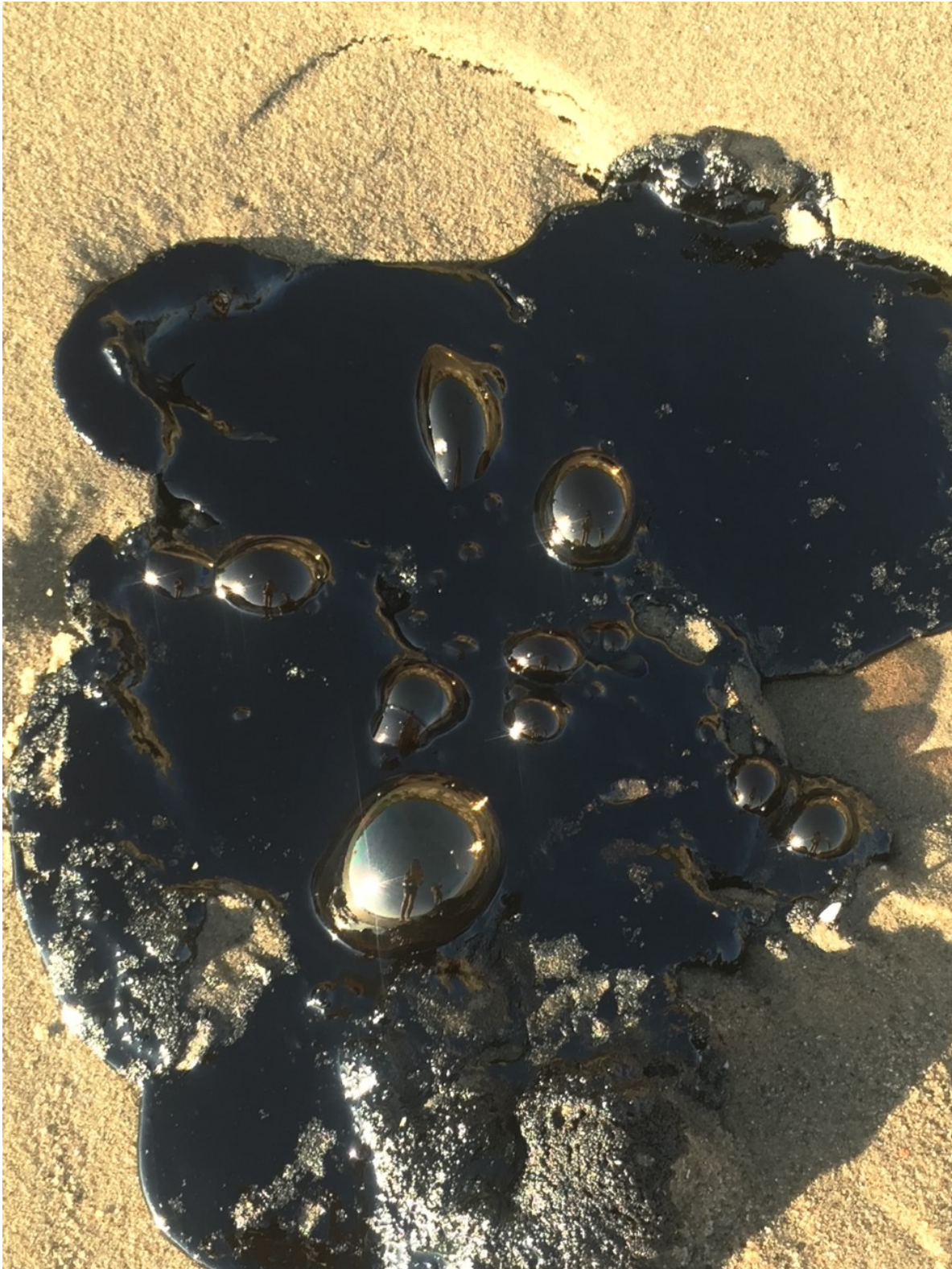
FIND A LOBSTER TRAP ON THE BEACH? LET US KNOW!

Since the reopening of the commercial lobster season on October 5th, we have received reports of derelict gear appearing onshore and we expect that more traps will end up on local beaches before the season closes on March 22, 2023.

In an effort to reduce the number of lobster traps lost, in 2016, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) established a trap tag program and trap limits to help track gear. The attached lobster tags contain information

that identifies the trap owner and the year the trap was set. With the help of volunteers, Channelkeeper monitors trap activity and alerts CDFW when gear washes ashore so that traps can be recovered by their owners and possibly reused.

If you see a trap onshore, please take a photo of the tag and send [Channelkeeper](#) detailed information about the location (beach name with latitude and longitude details). Our staff will report the tag to CDFW and track it to make sure it is removed from the beach.



Natural oil seepage has occurred in the Channel for millions of years and fluctuates greatly in volume from day to day and year to year due to both geologic factors and storms. As wind and waves break the oil slick into smaller patches, tarballs form and ultimately can end up on beaches.

Channelkeeper performs quarterly surveys of tar presence on fourteen local beaches between Gaviota and Emma Wood State Beach. Our team recently collected data for the fall 2022 season.

In each survey, we record the number of tarballs per square meter, as well as the size and characteristics (sticky or weathered) of each clump. The data that we collect helps establish a baseline of tarballs seen on our local beaches so that we can differentiate spilled oil from that of natural seeps in the future.



GIVING TUESDAY
November 29th

Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement, is just around the corner! This day of giving offers an opportunity to do good in your community by sharing your time, a donation, or the power of your voice to important causes.

We hope you'll consider supporting Santa Barbara Channelkeeper in honor of Giving Tuesday with a tax-deductible donation that will help us hold polluters accountable and protect our precious beaches, creeks, and coast for future generations.

[Donate](#)

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